

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

RSC-01 MC-01 ACDA-05 SS-15 IGA-01 L-02 /042 R

DRAFTED BY DEFENSE/ISA:NA:COL. SIGLER

APPROVED BY AF/C:CUTLER

AF/I:ANDEREGG

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P 032044Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:MASS, GB

SUBJECT: GUNS FOR GABONESE PATROL BOAT

REF: STATE 151549

1. ON JULY 19, 1974 DOD GAVE GABONESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON LETTERS OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE (LOA) (DD FORM 1513) FOR WEAPONS (FMS CASE GB-LAA-P4) AND AMMUNITION (FMS CASE GB-AAA-P4) TO OUTFIT PATROL CRAFT BEING ACQUIRED COMMERCIALY FROM SWIFTSHIPS, INC. AFTER BEING INFORMED IN EARLY AUGUST THAT DOD WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE FRENCH TRANSLATION OF LOA, EMBASSY OF GABON FORWARDED LOA TO LIBREVILLE FOR TRANSLATION AND SIGNATURE. ON OCT 15 GABONESE EMBASSY DELIVERED FRENCH TRANSLATION LOA COPIES TO DOD.

2. IN MID-DECEMBER GABONESE EMBASSY AND SWIFTSHIPS REPRESENTATIVE INQUIRED ABOUT WEAPONS NEEDED TO COMPLETE OUTFITTING PATROL CRAFT. US NAVY FOREIGN MILITARY SALES OFFICE REPORTED THAT AMMUNITION LOA GB-AAA-P4 HADNOT YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM GABON. EMBASSY OF GABON BELIEVES COPIES OF BOTH LOA'S WERE DELIVERED TO DOD AND NAVY BUT DOES NOT HAVE

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FILE COPIES OF EITHER.

3. DOD AND NAVY ARE UNABLE TO PROCEED WITH FMS CASE GB-LAA-P4 (WEAPONS) UNTIL SIGNED COPIES IN ENGLISH OR

FRENCH ARE AVAILABLE. IN ORDER TO RESOLVE MATTER, REQUEST YOU PROPOSE TO GOG THAT IT PROVIDE AND FORWARD VIA US DIPLOMATIC POUCH COPIES OF SIGNED FRENCH TRANSLATION LOA. ALTERNATIVELY, GOG COULD CABLE AUTHORIZATION TO GABONESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON FOR SIGNATURE ENGLISH COPIES LOA.

4. MEETING BETWEEN AMB. MAVOUNGOU AND DEP. ASST. SEC. DEF. NOYES SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 7 TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM. IF POSSIBLE, REQUEST YOU ADVISE PRIOR TO THAT DATE COURSE OF ACTION PREFERRED BY GOG.

5. FYI: WEAPONS FOR PATROL CRAFT ARE NOT AVAILABLE FROM US INVENTORY AND THEREFORE MUST BE FABRICATED AFTER RECEIPT OF SIGNED LOA. AS SPECIFIED IN REMARKS COLUMN OF LOA GIVEN TO GOG, PROCUREMENT LEAD TIMES FOR WEAPONS VARY BY ITEM FROM 9-12 MONTHS AND FOR ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT FROM 9-21 MONTHS. IN EFFORT TO MINIMIZE DELAY IN ESTABLISHING GABONESE OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY, DOD NOW EXPLORING FEASIBILITY OF INSTALLING WEAPONS IN GABON AFTER DELIVERY OF PATROL CRAFT. THIS WOULD PERMIT CONTINUATION OF TRAINING WITH PARTIALLY ARMED BOAT AS EARLY AS 9 MONTHS AFTER LOA SIGNED. POST-DELIVERY INSTALLATION MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED BY COMPETENT GABONESE, IF AVAILABLE, OR BY US NAVY CONTRACTOR. LATTER OPTION WOULD OF COURSE PROBABLY INVOLVE ADDITIONAL EXPENSE TO GABON. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY EQUIPMENT, DOCUMENTS, SHIPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE001277  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** NA:COL. SIGLER  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750003-1071  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750179/aaaacrdh.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 151549  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 SEP 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUNS FOR GABONESE PATROL BOAT  
**TAGS:** MASS, GB  
**To:** LIBREVILLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006